ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for searching document information by a server in response to a search request from a client and responding. In the case where a document file is designated as a search condition by a search condition designating unit of the client, contents of a designated file are transmitted via a network. A document search unit of a search machine provided on the server side forms a keyword from the file contents transmitted from the search condition designating unit and searches similar documents from an index (a train of important words extracted from search target documents) in a search database.